

RESILIENT



COMMUNITY



MBC

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It amazes me how quickly our *Resilient* magazine has become an important means of delivering on our mission to strengthen families. I recently had one gentleman tell me that he expectantly awaits each edition of *Resilient* because of the encouragement received in its pages. I trust that will also be your experience with this edition.

Our 2024 theme is *community*. A quick Google search for a definition revealed one that I believe fits well: “a feeling of fellowship with others as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals.”

Throughout this magazine you will read about various community experiences at MBC. We will also challenge you to consider the mandate that we, as followers of Jesus,

have been given in Scripture to live out the purest sense of community as a good testimony to those around us.

I recently decided to take a break from Facebook. In typical Facebook fashion I declared my intention on my FB wall and then deleted the app from my phone. Later in the day, however, I realized I hadn’t deleted it from my tablet, so I decided to take a quick peek at my last post. What I saw there gave me that “sense” of community as described above. Some of my friends acknowledged my departure, some said they would miss my posts, some identified things about my posts they appreciated and some even left prayer requests.

I do think the rapid adoption of social media is testimony that people are feeling isolated with a lack of community. Loneliness is now being reported by many researchers as reaching epidemic proportions, especially among our young people. A 2021 Harvard Graduate

School of Education survey of 950 Americans found that 61% of young people ages 18–25 reported experiencing profound loneliness—including feeling lonely all the time—compared to only 36% among other age groups (tinyurl.com/yzrrkczk). Research is now also indicating that loneliness can have a significant and measurable effect on our physical wellbeing. Some studies are equating its impact on our mortality to rival that of alcoholism and smoking (tinyurl.com/3ensy46d)!

Camp experiences are exceptionally effective at creating community. That is part of the reason I am so passionate about our ministry at MBC. We offer one of the key antidotes to what is ailing our society, especially among young people. And we do it with Christ at the centre, so there is a strong, biblical foundation that has value for this life and the one yet to come.

So, lean into this edition and seek to discover ways you can live out community more effectively in your family, church or workplace, for the glory of God. 🙏

John Friesen
CEO, Muskoka Bible Centre



Visit our MBC website.

RESILIENT

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A MASTERCLASS IN PEACE

How forbearing and forgiving bring peace to our community

By Don Symons

I think we've all heard the saying that goes like this: "To live above, with saints we love, O that will be our glory. But to live below, with saints we know, well that's a different story!" Like most bits of humour, there's some truth to this adage. We all know the body of Christ should, in the words of Paul, "put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony" (Col 3:14), and yet our experience doesn't always illustrate this. Why is communal peace so hard? Perhaps more importantly, what can we do to make it a reality?

The previous verse has a clue: "Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other" (Col 3:13). Here we see two critical communal skills of peace that, when mastered, can replace strife with serenity and conquer self-interest with selflessness. The skills are to *bear* and to *forgive*. These skills can be learned and, when learned, can be set ablaze by the Holy Spirit to the glory of Christ. Let's take a look at each one.

Forebear

First, Paul tells us to "bear with one another." Old translations

Forbearing is best used when our brother or sister has not actually sinned against us, but they have irritated us.

use the word *forebear*. What does that mean, anyway?

Well, the word *bear* has the idea of *endure* in it. We are to endure each other. It would be wonderful if we could perpetually enjoy each other, but we all know that sometimes it just doesn't happen. When a person is irritating us, driving us crazy or getting under our skin, we need to get out the "forebear tool" and start using it.

Notice that I said *irritating us, driving us crazy or getting under our skin*. Forbearing is best used when our brother or sister has not actually sinned against us, but they have irritated us.

COMMUNITY

They didn't steal from us, but they do stand too close to us when they speak. They didn't gossip about us, but they do arrive late and then never take the hint when it's time to leave. In these cases, forgiveness (the next skill we're about to talk about) is unnecessary because no sin has occurred. The problem is their interpersonal style and habits annoy our interpersonal style.

When that happens, forbear. Endure. Put up with it. We do this because God commands it—and because we're wise enough to know we have our own habits that drive others around the bend!

Forgive

The other peace-inducing skill Paul mentions is "forgiving



If you have an actual, factual, verifiable complaint, then don't endure them—forgive them.

each other." Forgiving is not the same as forbearing. Forbearing, as we've just read, is best applied when no actual sin has taken place against us. We're just miffed at another person's way of interacting.

On the other hand, forgiveness is what we do when our brother or sister has actually wronged us. It's not about style, it's not about personality, it's not about habits—someone has

sinned and their sin has directly wounded us. Notice how Paul differentiates between the two. "Bearing with one another, and if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other." (Col 3:13). That's an important distinction. If someone is driving you crazy, bear with them. Endure them. But if you have an actual, factual, verifiable complaint, then don't endure them—forgive them.



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It takes wisdom to differentiate between these two. When we are hurt, we are quick to wrap the sin-motif around our brother or sister's behaviour—but often we haven't been sinned against. We may be exasperated that Uncle Bob is late again. We may be irked that Mrs. Jones is still talking long after we've lost interest. Friends, these are not sins that require forgiveness, they are irritations that require endurance and forbearance.

But when our brother or sister has sinned against us, we must forgive. When others have willfully, repeatedly, intentionally done things they know are sinful for the express purpose of wounding us, we are called to forgive. The reason is given to us in the text itself: "as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive" (Col 3:13).

These are two powerful tools. In the hands of the Holy Spirit, they can bring peace, love and a powerful bond between us.

Now, if only we had some sort of "relationship gymnasium" to train these new spiritual skills. Oh wait, *we do!* Our MBC campground community will soon be filled with campfires, golf cart parades and corn roasts. *Hooray!* But with that, no doubt, it will also be filled with a steady stream of irritations, disappointments and hurtful sin. Bring it on! We're ready to strengthen our new spiritual skills! **R**



Don Symons is senior pastor of Westney Heights Baptist Church, Ajax—and husband of Sandy, MBC's campground manager.

THEME PASSAGE

Put on then,
as God's chosen ones,
holy and beloved,
compassionate hearts,
kindness, humility,
meekness, and patience,
**BEARING WITH ONE
ANOTHER**

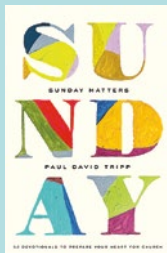
and, if one has a complaint
against another,
FORGIVING EACH OTHER;
as the Lord has forgiven you,
so you also must forgive.
And above all these put on love,
which binds everything together
in perfect harmony.
And let the peace of Christ
rule in your hearts, to which indeed
you were called in one body.
And be thankful.

Colossians 3:12–15 ESV

COMMUNITY

BOOKSTORE RECOMMENDATIONS

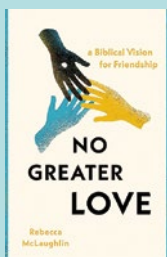
FIVE BOOKS ON COMMUNITY



Sunday Matters
52 Devotionals to Prepare Your Heart for Church
By Paul David Tripp
Crossway (2023)
978-1433582820



Reappearing Church
The Hope for Renewal in the Rise of Our Post-Christian Culture
By Mark Sayers
Moody (2019)
978-0802419132



No Greater Love
A Biblical Vision for Friendship
By Rebecca McLaughlin
Moody (2023)
978-0802428929



How to Put Love First
Find Meaningful Connection with God, Your People, and Your Community (A 90-Day Challenge)
By Sadie Robertson Huff and Christian Huff
Thomas Nelson (2023)
978-1400228645



Adorning the Dark
Thoughts on Community, Calling, and the Mystery of Making
By Andrew Peterson
B&H (2019)
978-1535949026

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Contact bookstore@muskokabile.com or stop by the bookstore this summer if you are interested in purchasing any of these books.



Jenn Martin and Ruth Waring

CAMPGROUND

Mother-daughter stories

By Ruth Waring & Jenn Martin

RUTH (mother): Doug and I first stood on MBC grounds in 1969 with our two-year-old son, Stewart (the first of our three children), visiting friends who had told us about “this amazing Christian campground!” As new Christians, we were seeking a biblically-rooted place to spend our holidays, a safe place for our future family, and, as it proved to be, a haven for relaxation and sound doctrine. After I was introduced to a women’s retreat in 1975, we made MBC our summer home; a place to refocus our priorities in life and to be spiritually rejuvenated.

After renting a cottage for several years, then graduating to a pop-up tent trailer, we purchased an old trailer in 1988. Our daughter, Jennifer, and our younger son, Bradley, were in their mid-teens and working at MBC for the summer. Over the span of the following 35 years, we have owned three trailers on three different sites and have been at site M5 for the last 22 years where we have strengthened our spiritual resolve, shared meals—if not just tea and cookies—and enjoyed many game nights or quiet moments on our deck, either resulting in laughter or tears. Each has been a highlight of any summer day or evening.

JENN (daughter): I met my husband, Greg, while on staff at MBC in the summer of 1987. Between my family’s trailer and Greg’s family cottage, we were able to enjoy many summers at MBC. We purchased our own trailer in 2000 and raised our three kids, Ben, Laura, and Julia (a.k.a. Hobart) by spending the entire summer at MBC.

With the kids now adults, we enjoy long-anticipated summer weeks with family and summer friends. MBC acts as a resting place for both Greg and I; a place where we find a peaceful pace like no other. Time spent by the lake with great friends, time under great Bible teaching or time quietly curled up with coffee, conversation, Scripture and far too many books to read in one summer, all continue to be a part of tremendous solace and renewal for each year in full-time ministry. [®]



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FAMILY FUSION CHOSEN: TESTIMONY

Embracing diversity within our adoptive community

By Emily Day




The Day family enjoying a beautiful sunny day at MBC's Family Fusion Chosen retreat.

A few years ago, our family had the pleasure of attending MBC's Family Fusion Chosen retreat for families that have come together through adoption and foster care—an experience that left a lasting impression on our hearts. The event provided a relaxing atmosphere for adoptive families like ours to come together. It was a weekend filled with stories, understanding and connection.

It was such a pleasure to meet other families with their own unique adoption stories. The shared experiences and challenges created an immediate sense of connection. The

open adoption lifestyle, which defines our adoptive family dynamic, can be difficult to navigate sometimes, and meeting others who share the same joys and struggles was so encouraging.

As we reminisce about that memorable weekend, the joy of building connections and spending time with families who understood the nuances of our journey remains such a valuable experience. The Family Fusion Chosen weekend was not just an event, it was a celebration of shared stories, common bonds and the strength that comes from embracing the diversity within our adoptive community. If you are part of this adoption community, I hope you get to experience it too. 

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www.muskokabible.com/retreats/hope



Quit flying upside down

An unpopular invitation to a different sort of leadership

By Pete Kuehni

“No!” I declared loudly (at least in my own mind). “No, no, no...not me!” About forty years ago I was sitting with a group of men, all of us in our 20s. The speaker declared, with tears streaming down his face, that not all who were seated in front of him would finish well. Some would give up on their faith, no longer convinced God was with them; some would be seduced by the “shiny” things of life; others would find their “religion” was not sufficient to address the inevitable worry and deep disappointments.

In his book *The Divine Conspiracy*, Dallas Willard describes the reality of the disoriented, disappointed Christian life of many as they pursue “the good life.” It is like flying an airplane in a thick bank of clouds, unaware the plane is in fact upside down. All seems to be fine, at least in the pilot’s own mind, even though the instruments are indicating otherwise. When the pilot pulls up, they are actually going into a

If we are to finish well, we must receive Jesus’ unpopular invitation to embrace life on God’s terms.

deep dive, likely to a tragic end.

The pre- and post-Covid stats only amplify what we see: anxiety, depression, suicide, diminishing church attendance, unhealthy deconstruction of faith and more. These are all disheartening realities.

For far too many believers, the frequent words in sermons, music, podcasts and even the Scriptures, now ring more hollow than true. We hear the “nice” declaration in Psalm 23, “The LORD is my shepherd, I have all that I need.” Our public face says how nice that Psalm is, while our private self battles and asks, “Really, I have all that I need? That is not how my life has turned out!” We are flying upside down.

The solution, as Eugene Peterson puts it in Romans 8:1–3 MSG, is life on God’s terms. If we are to finish well, we must receive Jesus’ unpopular invitation to embrace life on *God’s terms*.

So, what does a resilient, “living on God’s terms” life look like for the Christian leader? In my life, and the

lives of many Christian leaders, I have observed twelve critical and uncommon attributes that are key to finishing well.

1. AN UNSWERVING BIG PICTURE

We “see” the bigger God story at work in us and through us. As a result, we have decided to follow Jesus (as the old hymn declares) and there is *no* turning back...there is *no* turning back.

2. A CRYSTAL-CLEAR VISION

We operate with a clear sense of calling from the Lord. His purposes resonate deep within us, creating kingdom-aligned direction, decisions, goals, aspirations and more.

3. CHOOSE WHOLENESS

We resist the temptation to live compartmentalized lives. We operate with deep alignment between our private and public lives. There is no divide in our leadership between Sunday and Monday; between secular and sacred.

4. TAKE HIM AT HIS WORD

You will need to decide if you will really trust Jesus and His Word. Will you “set your minds on things above, not earthly things” (Col 3:2)?

5. LIFE-GIVING RHYTHMS

We learn to honour the God-given rhythms of engagement and rest, engagement and rest. Jesus’ invitation to come away with Him in solitude

and silence was not just a nice suggestion.

6. SURRENDER IT ALL

We know theologically that “God owns it all.” Yet, our compulsions for control and the clamour for more indicate something different. We must learn to lead with open hands, as we steward all that is entrusted to us.

7. CHOOSE INDIFFERENCE

Success in God’s kingdom is defined very differently than that of the world. We must learn to be indifferent and not tie our identity, our sense of value and wellbeing to outcomes—to “the things of this world” (1 Cor 7:31).

8. EXPECT OPPOSITION

Resilient leaders have learned the world is not a nice place. Not everyone is interested in you and me living

and leading as Jesus followers. Learn not to be surprised when you face opposition, pain and suffering.

9. LIVE LIGHTLY

We learn to keep short accounts with the Lord, with one another and with ourselves. We pursue being well relationally, “so far as it depends on you” (Rom 12:18).

10. EMBRACE THE STAGE


If you are in your forties, then be all there. If you are in your sixties, then be all there. Learn to leverage your kingdom-calling in alignment with your stage in life.

11. LOVE REALLY IS THE ANSWER

Have you discovered that life begins, is and ends by being identified as His beloved? If you have, then the Greatest Commandment has truly become the greatest for you (Matt 22:37).

12. DON'T DO IT ALONE

Community is often discussed but not often lived well. If you are committed to finishing well, then you will have a few faithful companions who are also committed in their conviction to finish well.

Forty years later I am still declaring loudly, “No, no, no...not me!” Will you declare the same? Will you declare, “No!” to flying upside down and ask Jesus to make these twelve uncommon attributes a reality in your life as you love, live and lead? 



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Pete Kuehni is a leadership mentor, helping Christian leaders lead kingdom flourishing lives and businesses. He and his wife Cathy live outside of Bracebridge, Ontario. You can reach him at pete@deliberateu.com.



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GUEST STORY

Mimico Baptist Church

By Susan Su

On Thanksgiving weekend 2023, Mimico Baptist Church Mandarin Ministry held a two-night retreat at Muskoka Bible Centre. This was our second visit to MBC. Our first visit in 2022 was a last-minute booking, as we only found out about MBC in early September of that year. With our group of 71 people, we had

Every minute spent at MBC was precious quality time for families and friends.

Sunday worship and daily morning devotions, but no other planned programs.

This year we planned two evening events ahead of time. The purpose of our Saturday gathering was basically for warming up, with each family taking turns introducing themselves, sharing where they came from (the majority from China, with a few from Taiwan and Hong Kong), along with their faith journey. Sunday was a gospel sharing night: there were

hymns, a Bible story, a talent show and a salvation-themed play called “Flight to New Jerusalem.” The play explained concepts of sin, repentance, being born again and how earthly wealth and self-discipline won’t lead to inner peace and eternal life. Jesus is the only way, the truth and the life. In the end, when Pastor Linying asked who would like to accept Jesus as their personal Saviour, there were four people who came forward and made a confession of faith. Two weeks after our retreat at MBC, another woman who attended the retreat accepted Jesus as her personal Saviour as well. Praise God for His marvelous work among us!

We feel very blessed to have the beautiful and gospel-centred MBC so close to Toronto. The scenery, friendly staff and tasty food made people feel so welcome. Every minute spent at MBC was precious, quality time for families and friends. We are definitely coming back!

May God abundantly bless His faithful servants at MBC!

PHOTO: COURTESY OF SUSAN SU

MID-WEEK GROUP RENTALS

Part of our mission at Muskoka Bible Centre is to be a vibrant partner to the local church. One way we achieve this is by providing a beautiful Muskoka venue for leadership retreats for churches and ministry organizations. Over and over we hear from groups about the tremendous benefit of getting away to enjoy time together as a team to seek God in setting the direction for their ministry.

MBC provides a peaceful lakeside setting, delicious meals and comfortable meeting spaces. We have two newly-renovated meeting rooms in the MBC Fellowship Centre that are bright, welcoming, well equipped with the latest AV gear and ideal for leadership retreats.

We are currently offering special discounts for ministry groups, particularly for mid-week bookings.



*“MBC is beautifully located in a very scenic part of Muskoka!
Our group was very blessed with the gorgeous views of the sunset,
the fantastic, above-average dining experience, and the provision of a more than
adequate meeting space for our church leadership team!”*

—OCTOBER 2023

Contact Hope Van Ewyk or Laura St Jean,
our Group Rentals Coordinators:
705.789.0123 ext. 271
grouprentals@muskokabible.com



www.muskokabible.com/group-rentals



The ripening of life

The role of wisdom in the senior years

By Lawson Murray

Older men and women should be growing in grace, not disgrace.

Gray hair and God's grace

In traditional African society, older people are esteemed as the representatives of their ancestors and the guardians of cultural traditions. They're addressed respectfully and asked for advice. When they speak, people usually listen and defer to their wisdom.

In ancient Hebrew culture, seniors were similarly valued and revered. With few people surviving into old age, grey hair was a badge of honour—indicating some level of maturity, wisdom, discernment and grace. Solomon says, “Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life” (Prov 16:31).

Note the word *righteous*. It comes from a word that means “straightness.” In the moral sense, a righteous life conforms to an authoritative standard (God's character). As such, it's the quality of being right in the eyes of God, including character (nature), conscience (attitude), conduct (action) and command (word).

Is your old age a *good* old age? Gray hair should be a crown of glory, representing a love for others and Christ. From God's perspective,

love—not looks—is beauty. The mark of distinction isn't the colour of one's hair, it's living by faith and following God's Word.

Aging with purpose

What does Proverbs 16:31 look like in practice? If you're a Christian, it should resemble an upright life reflecting an intimate relationship with Jesus that mirrors His ways.

Older men and women should be growing in grace, not disgrace. Yet seniors aren't always known for their insight and understanding. Some sixty-year-olds never grow up; they still behave like foolish children.

A Ugandan proverb says, “An old man is not put in a boat to row but to give advice.” God's plan isn't for seniors to stop contributing. In a world muddied by humanistic indoctrination, identity confusion, and social engineering, families, churches and communities desperately need the wisdom of older believers exemplifying God-loyal lives.

Being an influencer

In social media, people follow influencers. Influencers earn a

substantial following due to their credibility, knowledge or expertise. You may not know this, but God has given you gray hair so that you can be an influencer!

A righteous life should be seen, not hidden. God wants seniors to “still bear fruit in old age,” to be “ever full of sap and green, to declare that the Lord is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him” (Psa 92:14–15). Old age isn't all decay. It's the ripening and swelling of the Christ-life within.

Exercise your God-given wisdom and experience. “Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience” (Col 3:12). Inspire and guide the actions of others. Reach and rescue the lost. Engage and equip God's people.

Sustained by God

A Gabonese proverb notes, “The dance of an old man doesn't last long.” You may not have the health and strength of years past, but God will sustain you. So, dance to His tune. For, “even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save” (Isa 46:4). **R**



Lawson Murray is President of Scripture Union Canada and a frequent speaker at MBC.

DON'T MISS IT!

Lawson Murray will be at MBC this year:

Autumn Getaway |
September 16–20



MEET THE TEAM

Jason and Karla Thornton

Student Discipleship Coordinators

Who are we, you might ask? Where are we from? Well, our journey starts in a land far away. Two strange people: one American (Karla), and one Canadian (Jason), both destined for a life full of adventure! We chose some adventures ourselves, while others were thrown into our faces, like a cold pie with sticky filling. But here we are, alive in Christ, blessed with two spunky and wild children who keep us young. Ellery and Emerett bring us more joy than we could have ever imagined!

We happened upon MBC not on purpose but by the very hand of God. During our eight years of marriage, we had always loved being youth leaders wherever we planted our roots. Obedience to Christ led us through some very hard times with tough questions, and somehow right to MBC's front steps. Our faith was challenged and as we came out the other side, we realized God had been equipping us to be a support and a light to youth and young adults. One of our life goals



Jason and Karla Thornton with their children Ellery and Emerett.

has always been to walk alongside youth and encourage them to encounter Christ in the outdoors. Our family thrives doing outdoor activities like hiking, biking and skiing, which is a lifestyle we want to inspire here at MBC as the Student Discipleship Coordinators. We want everyone to turn and find God in all the majestic creation that surrounds us! ®

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MUSKOKA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

My faith. His story.

Sticking with uncommon community

By Nicky Schleihau



Muskoka Christian Academy staff and students on the grounds of MBC.

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”—except this.”

Have you ever felt this way about struggling through challenges in your own community? Perhaps in your church, ministry or job? A blended family that hasn't quite gelled yet?

Maybe you've already given up emotionally.

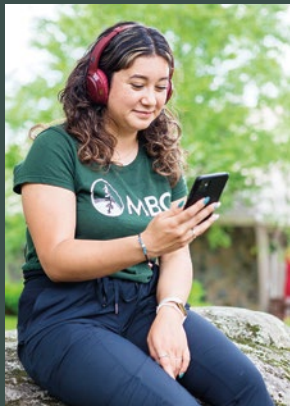
Living in community certainly is difficult, but the benefits far outweigh the hardships. A healthy community has positive effects on physical and mental health, along with society as a whole. It is also a spiritual act of worship. According to the second

commandment, we must love our neighbours as ourselves (Mark 12:31). Jesus serves as our ultimate example. He associated with His disciples and with sinners and tax collectors, women and children, those considered unworthy and unclean.

But what if you find yourself in a group that's experiencing friction? Do

TRANSFORMING CULTURE

AN MBC PODCAST



The world is rapidly changing. Every time we blink, it seems there's a new cultural rule that we all have to follow. It can feel like waves crashing on us: we want to love others well, but also lead them to Jesus truthfully.

Join us each fall for a nine-part series where we look at some controversial cultural topics and how we can engage with care and Christ-centred truth. Our speakers shared their thoughts from the chapel stage at Muskoka Bible Centre during the summer and we're now bringing them to you as an MBC podcast!



www.muskokabible.com/podcasts

you abandon the call to do your part? What does the Lord require of you?

These are the questions I posed to the seven students who attend the first Christian high school in Muskoka. Prayerful plans had been in the works for years. Finally, we took a leap of faith. We quickly discovered our small group of students had very little in common with each other and there was pre-existing tension among some of them.

What have I gotten myself into?

This question echoed in my mind. Tension grew by the minute. My zeal for shepherding an eager group of students waned.

Eventually, I concluded God placed me where I was and equipped me for such a time as this. The school was His work, and He was going to accomplish the good works He prepared beforehand (Eph 2:10). I clung to the verse: “It is no longer I who



Moving to Founders Hall at MBC was the boost the school needed.

lives, but Christ who lives in me” (Gal 2:20).

With much prayer and actively listening to God’s guidance, frozen hearts began to thaw and things started to turn around. But the challenges were far from over.

We received word that the use of our school facility was needed for another purpose. The news was disheartening but *God was in it*. We reached out to MBC—and they agreed. Moving to Founders Hall at MBC was the boost the school needed. It also lined up with MBC’s vision to disciple the next generation. *Amazing!*

Staying in community is not easy, but we can do it because Christ will give us the strength. The school is now thriving. Students are becoming proficient in their academics and living out their faith according to Micah 6:8. I had my doubts we’d make it this far, but we have because we surrendered our community to God and committed to persevering. **®**

Nicky Schleihauf is Director of Program Development at Muskoka Christian Academy. Request an information package at MCA@muskokachristianschool.com or by calling 705.418.1133. Find out more at muskokachristianschool.com/muskoka-christian-academy.



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WIDJIITWIN UPDATE

Camp is a training ground for healthy community

By Becky Cripps

If you ask most people who have worked at or attended a summer camp, they will tell you that it's where they met lifelong friends!

I know I did. I met my husband at Camp Widjiitwin and I'm still in touch with so many good friends from my own camp years back in the '90s and early 2000s! Summer camp has a way of building community and deep relationships through shared experience in a young person's developmental years. Camp has a way of creating a sense of belonging within a healthy Christian community.

I've always wondered how we can reproduce this sort of incredible Christian community outside of camp. It really feels like the type of community we read about in Acts 2:42-47:

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And

Camp has a way of creating a sense of belonging within a healthy Christian community.

all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

In the real world—that being the world outside of the camp bubble—we're just not able to connect in the same way. Our houses are further apart than the cabins at camp. We aren't able to share three meals a day together with our friends. However, what I think we can reproduce is many of the values that are demonstrated within this kind of close-knit community.

In many ways, camp is the perfect training ground for our

young people to be discipled in healthy community:

- Living with a devotion to learning about the Lord.
- Fellowshiping with other believers.
- Making a commitment to the breaking of bread and prayer.
- Living generously and giving to those in need.

We can recreate this kind of community with the help of Jesus. In doing so, may the Lord add to our numbers daily those who come to know His saving love. This is my prayer for the Widjiitwin program and our summer at camp! ®



Becky Cripps is MBC's Program Director: Widjiitwin.



DONATE TO WIDJIITWIN

To give towards the Widjiitwin program, scan the QR code here

or visit us at www.muskokabile.com/widjiitwin/give.

WIDJIITWIN PARTNERS

Camp as community

We are excited to work with several partner groups who will help make MBC's Widjiitiwin vision a reality. Sierra Ducharme is the Family Ministry Coordinator at Church of the City, Guelph, Ont.

When you say the words "summer camp," many people think about a fun place to go for a week, eating marshmallows around a fire, learning to shoot an arrow or paddle a canoe and then return home. For many campers, especially at Christian camps, it's so much more than that. Camp becomes the community that helps form and shape who we are as people, and guides who we become as people in God's kingdom.

This spring, we're interviewing Sierra Ducharme, the Family Ministry Coordinator at Church of the City in Guelph, Ontario. She and her husband have been attending since 2018, and she leads the community partnership between the Widjiitiwin Program at Muskoka Bible Centre and Church of the City.

Right away, I discovered that Sierra's story echoes so much of the work that's already happening at Widjiitiwin. She became a believer at Camp Mini-Yo-We when she was sixteen years old, and the community formed at camp is what helped form her faith. She didn't come from a Christian home, and so camp was the place where she met and learned more about God. When we talked about what it's like for a traditional summer camp model, Sierra got it right away.

You lose that connection so quickly. Because you don't get to go to camp again for the next year, so how do you support kids that are going home to any kind of non-Christian environment? With Widjiitiwin, I think



Sierra Ducharme with her husband Conner and their daughter.

it's awesome because you get to go for a week and build relationships with these kids.

At MBC, we recognize that one week at camp is great, but a full, year-round connection is so much better. Church of the City uses their time at Widjiitiwin to launch other programming: next summer, they plan to block off a whole street and host a potluck to meet with various camper groups and connect them to others in the Guelph area.

It really is about more than just "camp" to our partners. They get that the Widjiitiwin program is about big picture, kingdom-building work. Sierra shared one last thought with me that speaks to the power of camp beyond marshmallows and canoes:

If our vision is to create an opportunity for anybody to encounter Jesus and

experience the wholeness of life in His kingdom, we need to do that as a city. And Widjiitiwin helps us come together as a family and then branch out from there. With Widjiitiwin, I think it's awesome because we go to camp with kids from our home community, strengthen those relationships during our time at camp and then continue investing into that relationship when they return home.

If that's not community building, I don't know what is. – LUKE LAROCQUE

It creates this beautiful cycle of relationship building that we want to see at our church.

PARTNER WITH WIDJIITWIN



You can make a gospel difference in the lives of children and youth!

Visit our Widjiitiwin donation page at www.muskokabible.com/widjiitiwin/give.



JAMAICAN RICE AND PEAS COOKED IN COCONUT MILK

By Patricia Mullings

For group of 10 people: 1/2 cup rice per person (2 cups water per 1 cup rice, i.e., 2:1 ratio for fluffy rice). Adjust ingredients to your desired serving size.

- 1 19 oz / 540 ml can red kidney beans (peas). DO NOT drain water from the cans as the water gives the rice the desired colour
- 1 can coconut milk
- 5 cups / 2 lbs. Basmati rice (or long grain rice if you prefer)
- 1 small onion, sliced in 4 quarters.
- 1 garlic clove, crushed.
- 1 stalk green onion, slightly crushed.
- 1 stem of fresh green thyme
- 1 small green scotch bonnet pepper. DO NOT CUT. (Ripe/red can be used)
- 1/8 cup green pepper slices
- 1 1/2 tbsp. margarine / butter (add more or less according to taste)
- 1 tsp. sea salt (salt to taste)
- 5 pimento berries (allspice)
- 1/4 box Jamaican Grace 100% creamed coconut (141 g box)
- 2 litres of water in pot

- Pour into a pot the 2 litres of water and add all the above ingredients EXCEPT the rice.
- Cover pot and bring to a boil.
- Wash the rice, then add to the pot and stir to mix all ingredients.
- Taste for salt and flavour to your liking.
- Cover with lid and bring it to boil.
- Lower heat and let rice cook until all water has evaporated.
Note: if all water has evaporated and the rice is still uncooked, add a small amount of water, cover pot and cook on low until ready.
- Allow to sit for 5 minutes before serving.

Serve with any of your favourite meats.

CHEF'S CORNER

If you happen to visit a Jamaican home on a Sunday afternoon, there is a 99.99 per cent chance that you will receive rice and peas served with chicken as your Sunday dinner!

In Jamaica, we are very traditional about what we eat on certain days. Growing up, we would share a “light” dinner of fried sprat/herring fish served with our traditional hard dough bread, and cornmeal or hominy corn porridge every Friday evening. On Saturdays, we almost always had soup. On Sundays, we ate rice and peas served with fried chicken. Occasionally, our parents would splurge and we would upgrade to more



expensive meat such as oxtail, pork or roast beef. The rice and peas meal is also a mainstay at weddings and gatherings. If you don't offer it at formal occasions, your guests will be sure to let you know of their displeasure!

In my childhood days, a typical Sunday involved hand-grating

coconut, cooking dry kidney beans that had been soaked overnight and going down to the local farmer to purchase chicken.

Rice and peas is also one of the easiest Jamaican dishes to prepare. It is seasoned with standard Jamaican seasonings: scallion/green onion, scotch bonnet pepper, allspice (pimento berries), thyme, salt and garlic that can transport you to a Jamaican oasis.

In Jamaica, we call red kidney beans “peas”! That might help any confusion as you read the name of the recipe and compare it to the ingredients listed below. If you refer to the dish as “rice and beans,” Jamaicans will have no idea what you're talking about, as other Caribbean nations have rice and bean recipes that taste completely different than our Jamaican “rice and peas.”

I am not a traditional chef. I learned to cook as a child in my stepmother's kitchen, watching her and helping with prep work. I do not normally follow recipes. I normally just play around with an idea, adding a little bit of this and a little bit of that, according to my liking. It was a challenge for me to write out this recipe, but I hope you enjoy it, knowing more of the story behind this traditional Jamaican meal! **R**

Patricia Mullings, a.k.a. “Lujah”—Camp Widjiitiwin cook



Your next **YOUTH GROUP RETREAT** starts at **Muskoka Bible Centre!**

Student discipleship is a key part of what we do at Muskoka Bible Centre. We have unique opportunities to invest in forming a strong biblical faith in young lives that are under attack from the society around them. In 2024, MBC is relaunching our youth discipleship and work experience program under the new name “Immerse” and, of course, “Youth Min” is a vital component of our programming each summer.

In the non-summer season, Founders Hall hosts many youth retreats. It is an ideal facility for youth—with bunk beds, private washrooms in each room and flexible meeting spaces.

Founders Hall has been newly renovated with fresh paint, new flooring and lighting, washroom upgrades and even air conditioning in the common spaces. Come and check out the many improvements to the facility!

Learn more about bringing your youth group to Founders Hall by contacting Laura or Hope by email at grouprentals@muskokabible.com or by phone at **705.789.0123 extension 271**. They would be happy to provide information and even invite your group leaders up for a tour of the facility.

“MBC is our church youth group’s ‘home away from home’ for retreats.

There is a familiarity with the grounds and the staff that allow us to feel comfortable right away, and the venue, serenity of the place along with the amazing staff make it an incredible location for us to reconnect with God.

We would recommend this location for any youth group trying to find a retreat location where your youth can connect with God, nature, each other, while having an awesome time and enjoying amazing food! 10/10!” –DECEMBER 2023



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Nurturing faith and community

Young adults share insight on the challenges and transformative experiences that come through community

By Reagan Hunter



Being a Christian young adult in 2024 comes with challenges. Figuring out the correct paths and decisions to make can be tough, especially when there is an abundance of choices. Many factors can influence these steps and decisions; one of the main influences I've noticed is *community*.

For Christians, one of the blessings we can be a part of is community. We don't have to face day-to-day life alone—we can have other Christian friends beside us, walking with us to navigate our next steps.

I have found this to be crucial in my own faith journey. Having worked at MBC for three summers, attending Capernwray Harbour Bible Centre for a year of Bible school and studying at Redeemer University for the past four years has been a source of stability that has helped my faith grow. Having friends grounded in

their faith and committed to Christ has not only encouraged me but also impacted my relationships, education and career aspirations.

Two such friends, Jadyn Kendrick and Dylan Bauman, have both been a part of the Stepping Stones (reintroduced in 2024 as “Immerse”) program at MBC while attending Christian post-secondary institutions.

Jadyn, a third-year religious education student from Heritage College & Seminary in Cambridge, Ont., has served at MBC for the past two summers, working in the Bakeshop and the Main Office. When talking about the Christian community, Jadyn said, “The most impactful aspect of living in a Christian community that I've experienced through Bible college and Christian camp is seeing people my age who live solely based on God's grace.”

Regarding school, Jadyn said, “What I have experienced is being immersed in the Word constantly. My classes, interactions with peers and professors, chapels and everything in-between are always so encouraging and edifying in my walk with the Lord.”

When discussing MBC, Jadyn expressed her love for her friends, saying, “During work hours, you work hard and get the job done. But after work, the environment encourages good conversations and quality time together.”

Dylan Bauman, a first-year kinesiology student at Redeemer University in Ancaster, Ont., has served at MBC for three summers, working in the Bakeshop, the Hub and Food Service.

Discussing Christian community, Dylan said, “The most significant impact on my life of being part of a Christian community is that it helps my sanctification. Having a good group of Christian friends allows them to call you out when you do something wrong.” He further discussed the importance of having more mature Christians in your life to learn and grow from.



Regarding Christian education, Dylan said, “The thing that has benefitted me most from going to a Christian university is the way it shows every aspect of study to be one unified whole created by God. It grows my appreciation of God and His creation to see the universe as a unified whole, made for a purpose.”

Community life is what Dylan loved most about working at MBC—always having Christians to hang out with. He discussed how he felt genuinely loved and cared for within the community and was blessed to be a part of a community that also cared for others.

Both Jady and Dylan discussed the significance of Christian community and how it has impacted their relationship with God. Jady said, “I have been surrounded by mature believers who have intentionally poured into me, and brothers and

sisters who have held me accountable and encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone. I truly believe that I would not be where I am today without the people God has intentionally placed in my life to lead me closer to Him and to guide me to where He wanted me to go.”

Dylan said, “[Christian community] makes me more grateful to God. It makes me more grateful because a good community is such a blessing, and it makes life such a joy.”

Being in an encouraging environment during your young adult years, with people to build you up and pour into you, benefits your relationship with Christ, as you transform to be more like Him. As the world is filled with distractions, finding support in a Christian community is essential. As young adults, we should be seeking and inviting more believers into that essential community. [®]



Community life is what Dylan loved most about working at MBC—always having Christians to hang out with.



Reagan Hunter is in her fourth year at Redeemer University studying philosophy, English, political science and psychology.



IMMERSE

Helping Young People Grow
and deepen their faith in God
Together.



The Immerse program is Muskoka Bible Centre’s student discipleship program. We believe that every student who serves at MBC should be growing not only in their work skills and experience, but creating a deeper faith in God. To do that, we work each year to build a unique community of students who are committed to serving well, learning together and spending time asking questions of each other and their leaders about what faith looks like and how it impacts their everyday life.



APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR SPRING AND SUMMER 2024!

Find out more at www.muskokabible.com

CAMP EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Another side of the world

By Luke LaRocque



Emily Angell with campers at Waipara Adventure Centre, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Muskoka Bible Centre is thrilled to be partnering with Christian Camping New Zealand (CCNZ) to offer a camp exchange program where our staff get the chance to serve in the sunny south over a five-month period, and we welcome Kiwis back to Canada for a summer of service here in Muskoka. At its core, the partnership is designed to foster deeper discipleship opportunities for our staff while creating lifelong memories and friendships. Getting to skip a cold Canadian winter isn't the worst thing either!

Camps in New Zealand operate on a different schedule than Canada, because their school year calendar is completely different. They don't have a traditional ten-week summer break. Instead, there are ten-week school terms with time off inbetween. As exchange participants, young people get the chance to serve mid-week groups from New Zealand schools, as well as supporting ministry-based holiday camps throughout the school breaks. Of course, there are a lot of opportunities to experience great new adventures in New Zealand too.

So, what's it *really* like? Don't take our word for it - here are some thoughts from one of this year's participants (written back in November as she was getting settled):

My name is Emily Angell and I'm currently on a work exchange through Christian Camping New Zealand. I'm volunteering at Waipara Adventure Centre near Christchurch until April. It's been an incredible experience so far. The camp staff have been so welcoming to us; welcoming us with open arms. It has been amazing to watch God working in my own life, as well as the lives of other interns and children attending camp. It's inspiring to watch how passionate full-time staff are about being a light to Jesus using outdoor activities. The full-time staff work incredibly hard to ensure the camp is in a presentable state for children attending camp throughout the week. The other instructors have been working hard to ensure we are well equipped to serve the kids to the best of our ability. I am currently

practicing many different knots and learning how to set up abseiling (translation: rappelling)!

The church community has also been incredibly welcoming. We attend a young adult group on Tuesday nights, as well as church on Sunday mornings. I anticipate joining the worship team soon and I'm very excited to serve God like this in a different country. It's amazing to see how God is the same God on the other side of the world. I can feel His presence with us every day as we embark on this epic adventure!

Please pray that God would help us at Waipara (and Hannah and Averie at Teapot Valley Bible Camp), as well as fellow co-workers, to be the hands and feet of Jesus in New Zealand over the next few months. And pray for us as we invite

Kiwis back to Canada next summer! 



Luke LaRocque is MBC's Director of Ministry.

“True faith means holding nothing back. It means putting every hope in God’s fidelity to His promises.”

—Francis Chan, *Crazy Love*

Shine among them

Therefore, my dear friends,
as you have always obeyed—not only
in my presence, but now much more
in my absence—continue to work out
your salvation with fear and
trembling, for it is God who works
in you to will and to act in order to
fulfill his good purpose.

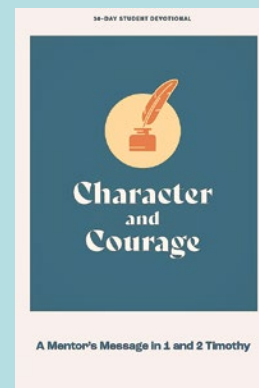
Do everything without grumbling or
arguing, so that you may become
blameless and pure, “children of God
without fault in a warped and crooked
generation.” Then you will

SHINE AMONG THEM

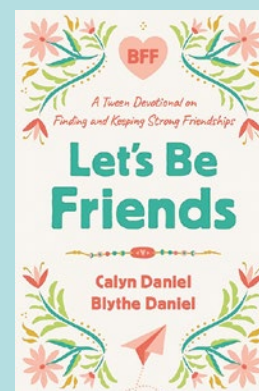
like stars in the sky as you hold firmly
to the word of life. And then I will be
able to boast on the day of Christ that
I did not run or labor in vain.

—Philippians 2:12–16 NIV

Devo time



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MEMORY VERSE TO COLOUR & CUT OUT



Let the
peace of
Christ
rule in your
hearts,
since as
members
of one body
you were
called to
peace.
And be
thankful.

Colossians 3:15 NIV

MAMASHEE'S MESSAGE

Community for kids



Do you know what community means? It is a group of people living close by who have things in common. So, your community can be at your school, in your neighbourhood or at your church. When you are young your parents often help you find your community but as you grow up you will learn to find your own community. Having a community is so important, it is where we grow and learn, where we make mistakes and where we can find unconditional love.

Jesus had a community when He was here on earth. His community included many people. He had fishermen and tax collectors, women and men of all ages. My community is filled with many different people, and my community encourages me, corrects me and loves me just the way I am. It is so special to have people in my life who care for me and help me live my best life.

Here is what I mean by this.

As a Christian, my community is important because I need people who know me so well



that they can see the mistakes I make and help me to correct them. They should be kind in how they do that but I also must allow people to point out the mistakes in my life so I can be better and more Christlike every day—living my best life!

Forgiveness is part of living in community too. We must forgive anyone who may have hurt us with their words or actions.

I also have prayer warriors in my community. Just this week, I needed prayer for something, and they were “on it,” praying for me when I could not find the words.

So, picking who is in our community is especially important. What does your community look like? As you grow up, who do you think you may have in your community?

I pray that as you learn and grow in your faith journey that you have a wonderful community of believers who can support you for life! [®]

Email me at mamashee@muskokabible.com

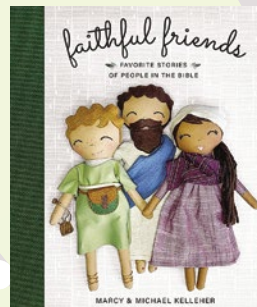
KIDS BOOKSHELF

3 KIDS PICKS



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Wanda Fitzell is the manager of our MBC Bookstore. If you're interested in any of these books, contact bookstore@muskokabible.com, and support MBC's mission by purchasing a book through us!



STORY TIME

The mushroom man

By Abby Ciona

“Could you kids drop these off at Mr. Frost’s house?” Mom asked Rina and Nick, handing the siblings a box of blueberry muffins. “Dad and I have to go to the mechanic, but you’ve walked to Mr. Frost’s house before, and you can take Cookie with you.”

Cookie the beagle wagged her tail, excited for the walk. Rina wasn’t as enthusiastic. “Do we have to?”

“It doesn’t have to be a long visit,” said Mom. “Just say hi and give him the muffins. I know it can be scary to talk to people who are much older than you, but it will be good for him to have some company. Maybe you can learn something, or you can teach him something.”

Rina and Nick exchanged glances, grabbed Cookie’s leash, and walked through the neighbourhood until they reached a fork in the road where a gravel path swerved into the forest. Mr. Frost’s house was deep in there. It was almost as if he didn’t want anyone to come.

Cookie tugged at the leash, sniffing at a cluster of yellow mushrooms at the side of the road.

“Don’t eat that, Cookie,” said Rina, speeding up to pull the dog away even though her stomach clenched tighter with every step. “I’m scared, Nick. Mr. Frost’s house smells weird, and his beard is so big that I can’t see his mouth. And he’s so old.”

“I’m sure he’s not too bad. Except that he doesn’t have internet,” Nick shuddered.

“How do we talk to him?”

“I think I’ll just ask him why his house smells weird,” joked Nick.

They didn’t have any more time to wonder, however, because they reached Mr. Frost’s house. Rina imagined it was even older than Mr. Frost. From the front step, the house smelled musty, like it was a part of the forest.

Nick smiled tensely and lifted the woodpecker-shaped door knocker. To his surprise, the door swung open before he knocked.

Mr. Frost squinted at them below his tiny glasses and shaggy grey beard. “Rina? Nick? What are you doing here?”

“Mom told us to bring you these,” said Rina, holding out the box of muffins. Her arms trembled.

“Oh,” said Mr. Frost, his dark eyes softening with warmth. “Thank you.”

Nick couldn’t hold in the question anymore. “Why does your house smell weird?”

Rina gasped. Mr. Frost just laughed and pointed to the jars lining his kitchen shelves. “A fair question. I’m used to the smell.”

Rina walked closer to look inside the jars, filled with shrivelled orange and white fungi. “Is that mushrooms?”

“You guessed it,” Rina spotted a smile under Mr. Frost’s beard. “I forage for them myself in the forest.”

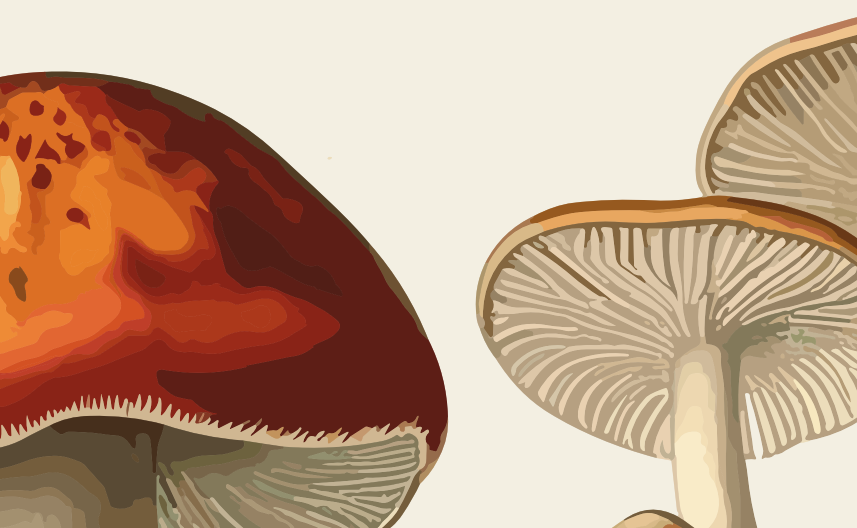
“Aren’t they poisonous?” asked Nick. “I thought you weren’t supposed to eat the colourful ones.”

“Not unless you know the right ones,” Mr. Frost winked. “I’ve been collecting wild mushrooms since I was a boy. My mother taught me.”

“That’s amazing,” said Nick, smiling at Rina. “It’s just like a video game.”

Rina opened her mouth to make another video game comparison but stopped. Had Mr. Frost ever played a video game? “Why haven’t you been to church recently?” she asked instead. Earlier today, she was relieved that he hadn’t been at church because he made her nervous. Now... it was different. “Why do you live so far away from people?”

“Come see.” He led Rina, Nick and Cookie around the side of the house to his backyard, where birds and



HUMOUR

Taco jokes

Did you hear the joke about the taco?

No, it was too cheesy!

Which Disney princess loves Mexican food?

Taco Belle!

What is a taco's favourite type of dance?

Salsa!

Why can you never trust a taco with a secret?

They tend to spill the beans!

What do tacos say before dinner?

Lettuce pray!

What do you call cheese that isn't yours?

Nacho cheese!



squirrels enjoyed a feast at his half-dozen birdfeeders dangling from the trees. Mr. Frost scooped out a handful of shiny black sunflower seeds from a metal bucket.

“Put your hands out.”

Rina and Nick listened and Mr. Frost placed a few seeds in their hands. Almost immediately, a black-capped chickadee swooped over from the feeder to Rina’s hand, grabbed a seed in its tiny beak and flew away.

Rina gasped. “How did you train them?”

“Patience,” Mr. Frost said. “Once one bird knows, they tell their bird friends, and then their friends tell their friends.” He smiled. “I feel like I learn better from God’s creation than from people.”

“But you taught me about mushrooms!” exclaimed Rina.

“And you learned from your mom,” said Nick.

Mr. Frost ran his fingers through his tangled beard and nodded. “We can all learn from each other.” He gave Cookie a pat on the head. “Maybe I’ll see you on Sunday.”

“Could you show me how to look for mushrooms?” asked Rina. “Dad loves to try cooking new things.”

Mr. Frost’s eyes twinkled like stars. “Maybe. It’s good to see you, Rina and Nick.”

Rina smiled. “See you on Sunday, Mr. Frost!” [®]

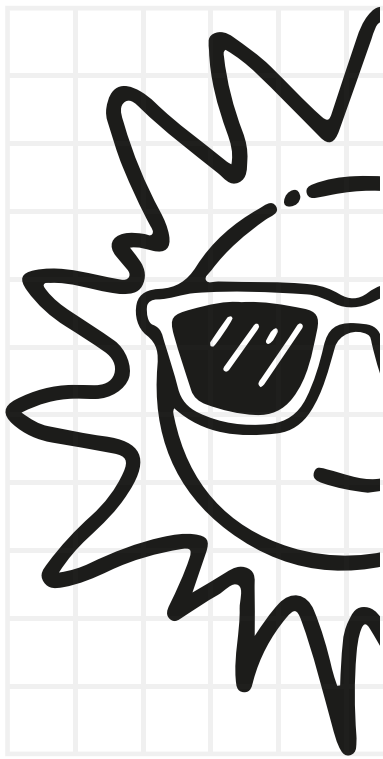
ILLUSTRATIONS: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM



Abby is an internationally published writer who loves encouraging young people to find their place in God’s story. Abby has been visiting MBC all her life but worked there for the first time in 2022. She is currently studying digital media and production at Redeemer University. Connect on Instagram @abbyciona.

MIRROR IMAGE

**Finish
the
other
half of
the
drawing**



COSTUME CONTEST



For the first time ever, we are running a costume contest for you!

We want to hear about one of your favourite stories from the Bible. Tell us more by dressing up as a character from that story and send us a picture of your costume. We can't wait to see what you share!

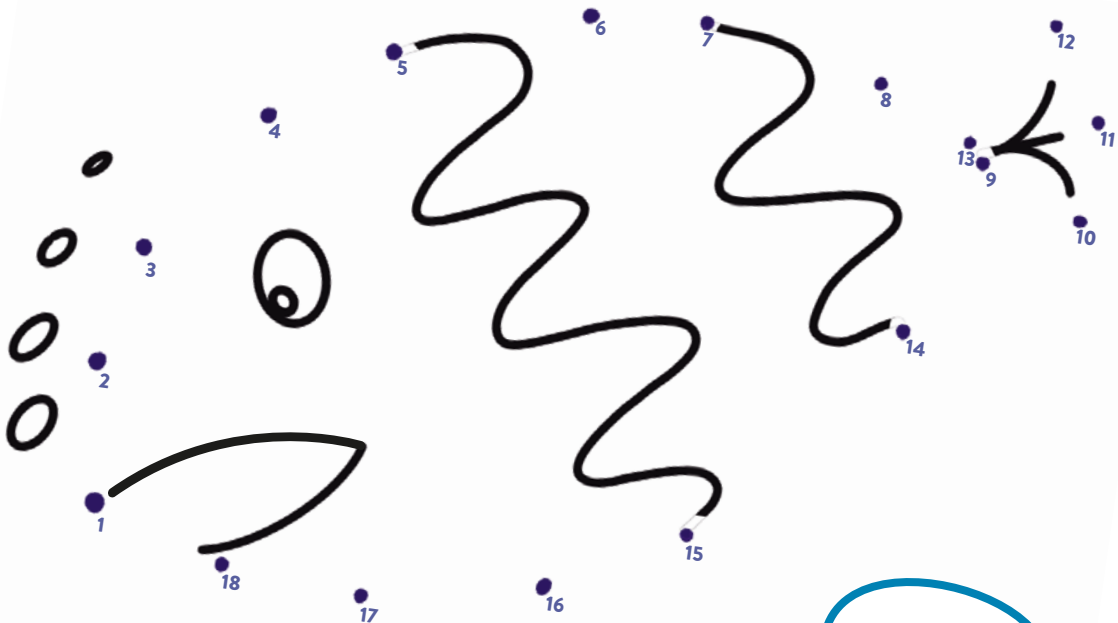
SEND A PHOTO TO:
MamaShee
Muskoka Bible Centre
8 Pioneer Ave.
Huntsville, ON P1H 2J3

Or email her at
mamashee@muskokabible.com



NUMBERS GAME

Follow the numbers to find out what it is!



FILL IN YOUR ANSWERS

I'm so grateful for . . .



In each cloud draw a picture of something you are grateful for today.

THOUGHTFUL INVESTMENT

By John Friesen

Throughout this edition of *Resilient* you have read about community being a key factor in fostering resilient faith. The Greek word for church in the New Testament is *ecclesia*, meaning “called out ones.” It is a reference to the Greek structure of citizenship—indicating those who “belong” to a city-state. As followers of Christ, we make up the citizenship of the Church and we have been called out to join in fellowship with other followers of

Over 17,000 guests annually experience faith formation at MBC.

Christ. Our togetherness binds us into a community around our common faith in Jesus Christ.

At MBC, we believe that a significant part of our vision of growing resilient, biblically rooted families and young people will be realized as we create experiences that foster true biblical community. This is most often the key growth factor of people impacted at MBC. When you think of over 17,000 guests annually experiencing this significant factor of

faith formation, you can begin to understand the value of MBC to the Kingdom work of God here on earth.

Can I suggest that this ministry is worth your investment?

The seeds planted at MBC spread to over 2,000 communities each year. You’ve read about the impact of MBC and our Widjiitiwin program in the pages of this magazine. This represents only a snapshot of the impact God is having in the lives of people each year through MBC.



MBC has been having a gospel impact on countless lives for over 94 years. Recent investments have renewed the facilities at The Fellowship Centre (including a variety of meeting rooms) and built a new Paddle Shack on the shores of Mary Lake.

I'd like to encourage you to consider investing in one or all of three ways.

1. Investing your time and resources to attend and/or bring your family to an MBC experience.
2. Investing strategic moments of intercessory prayer for our team and our guests so that the work of the Holy Spirit will be unhindered.
3. Investing financially, knowing that your investment will impact thousands of lives for eternity.

Our target for annual ministry donations in 2024 is \$900,000. Last year our constituency generously helped us reach this

target. We trust this can happen again!

Founders Hall renovation

But there's more! We are also investing in two projects to improve our youth discipleship ministry. The first is a renovation of Founders Hall. This twenty-year-old building has served us well but without any significant improvements over the years it is showing its age. The dormitory, along with teaching, community and office space, is the hub of our youth community and now is also host to the first Christian high school in the Muskoka region. The renovations will include new flooring, paint, furniture and perhaps most importantly for the youth, a new HVAC

system with air conditioning in all the public areas. *The total cost of this is projected at \$300,000.* We hope to complete this work before our summer student team arrives.

SALT program

The second project is smaller in scale but perhaps no less significant. Our S.A.L.T. (Skills And Leadership Training) program participants need their own teaching and community space. This program at Camp Widjiitwin is an intense four-week leadership and discipleship development experience that has been transformative to hundreds of 14- to 17-year-olds. Now that we have restarted this program (post-Covid), we are recognizing the urgent priority

Our target for annual ministry donations in 2024 is \$900,000.



The renovations at Founders Hall are already in progress.



DONATE TODAY!

This QR code will take you to our giving page. You can give to the Muskoka Bible Foundation online at www.muskokabiblefoundation.com or e-transfer a gift to donate@muskokabible.com or call the office at 705.789.0123.



PARTNER WITH MBC



The SALT program is an intense four-week leadership and discipleship development experience that has been transformative to hundreds of 14- to 17-year-olds.

of providing these students with a better space to learn and grow in community. Until now they have used makeshift spaces—tents, musty basement rooms and whatever else was available. Our plan is to build a pavilion-type building with enclosed teaching and open community space. Nothing fancy but something functional and inspiring to a group of future leaders. *The expected cost of this is \$150,000.* To complete this project for this summer, we need these funds in hand by the end of March 2024.

Invest in MBC

Can I ask you to prayerfully consider an investment in MBC—becoming one of the builders alongside so many others who have faithfully

Will you step up as one of our builders in 2024?

prayed for and given financially over the 94 years of MBC's existence? We currently have about 650 "builders" who undergird this ministry financially each year. We know that more than 2,500 families experience MBC just in the summer alone. *Will you step up as one of our builders in 2024?* And to those who have invested faithfully as God has enabled you, I give my heartfelt thanks on behalf of our board, our team and the guests who are the beneficiaries of your investment. May God receive the glory as we work together for His Kingdom. [®]

If you have any questions on how you can support our ministry, please feel free to call or email CEO John Friesen at 705.789.0123 or john.friesen@muskokabible.com

BECOME AN MBC BUILDER

Muskoka Bible Foundation exists to support the charitable activities of MBC.

MBC (including the ministry, facility and operations) is now working within a zero-debt policy and within a conservative financial structure. This stability allows us to invest any surpluses into expanding and growing the ministry and the facility in support of the Kingdom mission.

As you plan your giving for the coming year, consider a donation to MBC. With your help we can continue to impact lives and hearts for Christ!

If you have any questions on how you can support our ministry, please feel free to call or email CEO John Friesen at 705.789.0123 or john.friesen@muskokabible.com.



MUSKOKA BIBLE FOUNDATION

Donations can be made online at: www.muskokabiblefoundation.com



MBC PODCASTS

Discover MBC's **Transforming Culture** podcast on your favourite podcast app, or visit www.muskokabible.com/podcasts

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- @MuskokaBibleCentre

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WIDJIITIWIN

ONE WEEK
ONLY—
REGISTER
TODAY!

Experience summer camp at Widjiitiwin

WIDJIITIWIN OPEN ENROLLMENT WEEK

Sunday, June 30th – Saturday, July 6th, 2024

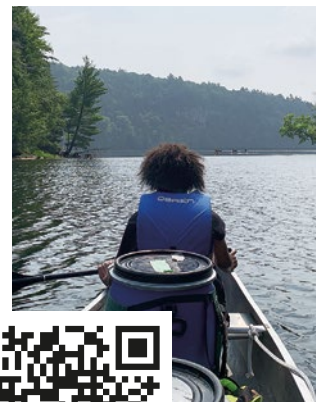
For kids 8–13 years old

Sign up for a week of overnight summer camp! Kids will get to experience various activities such as rock climbing, archery, pedal karts, sports, outdoor survival, etc. chapels, devotional times as a cabin, delicious family-style meals, campfires and more!

Campers will stay in a rustic cabin with kids in the same age group, alongside two cabin leaders who are well trained. Camp has been an incredible experience for kids for decades and we're excited to welcome your kids to Widjiitiwin this summer!

Kids need camp!

Cost: \$900. To promote our relaunch of our Widjiitiwin Open Enrollment Week, we are offering a \$150 discount to all campers in this first year of registration, bringing your total to **ONLY \$750 +HST**.



REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!

or call 705.789.0123





MBC | ROOTED IN FAITH & FAMILY

Muskoka Bible Centre is the place for your family this summer!

Found lakeside in the heart of Muskoka, we offer the complete summer package. From chapel ministry and workshops to kids and youth ministries, we have something for every age group.

At MBC, we provide fun recreational amenities, a beautiful beach, as well as a full dining experience. Choose to stay in our comfortable accommodations or at one of our beautiful campsites.



SUMMER TEACHERS

Week 1
June 29–July 6



Bryndan Loritts

Week 2
July 6–13



Stephen Yuille

Week 3
July 13–20



Adam Brown

Week 4
July 20–27



Dwayne Cline

Week 5
July 27–Aug 3



Stephen Bray

Week 6
Aug 3–10



Robbie Symons

Week 7
Aug 10–17



Phillip Marshall

Week 8
Aug 17–24



Norm Millar

Week 9
Aug 24–31



Michael Haykin

Experience the best days of summer at MBC. **BOOK NOW!**



Book online at reservations.muskokabile.com or call 705.789.0123

www.muskokabile.com